**Brown Reflection One:**

My internship focuses on the integration of Web 2.0 into the classroom. With Bluffton Elementary pushing towards a technology school status with the district, we need to improve our overall use of technology in classroom situations. I decided to focus on Web 2.0 after leading a school summer book study with my kindergarten and first grade teachers. The book study was conducted through Edublog and the teachers had to post their responses to different chapters each week. Some teachers had never utilized blogging or the site and had difficulty understanding the program. After a short tutorial, they were able to easily continue. My thoughts went to how many others would use Web 2.0 if they just understood how it could impact the classroom. My five choices of sites were Edublog, Google Earth, Museum Box, Animoto, and Panoramio. These five were chosen because they would integrate well with elementary level curriculum standards.

My next obstacle was finding a mentor. Our school had a wonderful technology coach during the 2009/2010 school year, but she moved to another school to help implement STEM. Bluffton Elementary has since hired a new technology coach and she needs time to acclimate herself to our school district. I approached our district level technology specialist and he agreed to help.

I asked the kindergarten and first grade teachers to meet with me during their planning time to discuss Edublog. During our discussion, the common theme was difficulty understanding how to logon as the main issue. Most of the other issues were site related technical issues. I, also, met with the grade level team members to discuss their current knowledge level of Edublog. All were interested in the site and discussed wasy it could be used for staff discussions and projects. (Teachers use our school website, School Fusion, to blog with parents and students) After these reviews, I will focus more on the logistics of creating an account and logging in for the first time for beginners.   
  
Next I looked as ways to create the video tutorials. I downloaded the trial version of Camtasia and I already have Jing installed. I created a pretend video through Jing first and it was very large and would be difficult to use with our limited resources at school. After seeing Dr. Smyth’s email about screenshots, I was relieved. I can now use Power Director and have the ability have handouts that are the exact same shots as the tutorial. The teachers will be able to easily find answers to questions they may have while using the program on their own.

The remaining part I reviewed this week was the technology proficiency level for the teachers. All teachers are required to take a technology proficiency test each year. This test has been put in place by the state department. Here is the proviso:

1A.32. (SDE-EIA: XI-E.2.-Teacher Technology Proficiency) To ensure the effective and efficient use of the funding provided by the General Assembly in Part IA, Section 1 XI.E.2 for school technology in the classroom and internet access, the State Department of Education shall approve district technology plans that specifically address and incorporate teacher technology competency standards and local school districts must require teachers to demonstrate proficiency in these standards as part of each teacher's Professional Development plan. The Department of Education's professional development tracking, prescriptive and electronic portfolio system for teachers is the preferred method for demonstrating technology proficiency as this system is aligned to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) teacher standards. Evidence that districts are meeting the requirement is a prerequisite to expenditure of a district's technology funds.

Bluffton Elementary has 47 certified teachers that took the test. 10 teachers were not able to make the 80% passing score. 15 were able to score well above 90%. With these results, I will focus my beginner tutorials on the 10 that did not pass. The advanced tutorials will be utilized with all others. As the teachers work with the tutorials, I will monitor the progress to determine if groups need to be adjusted.

Note: teachers will be retaking the test during the month of October. I will review results and make changes to the grouping during that time as well.

My next step is creating the first tutorial, Edublog and presenting it to the teachers. The teachers will complete a usage survey at the end of the week as well. The survey will be created through Google Docs.

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[New Proviso website](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/appropriations2010/tap1b.htm#s1)